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District 8

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04-056

Date: March 26, 2004

**IOWA AND LINDEN AVENUE BRIDGES
OVER I-215 TO CLOSE
TWO OVERCROSSINGS WILL BE CLOSED 15 MONTHS**

RIVERSIDE – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announces impending closures for the Iowa Avenue and Linden Street bridges over I-215 in Riverside. **These closures are complete closures; no vehicular or pedestrian traffic will be permitted on the bridges beginning April 5, 2004. The closures will continue for approximately 15 months.**

Changeable Message Signs (CMS) warning motorists of the impending closures will be in place starting today, March 26. The closures are necessary to prepare for the complete demolition of the two bridges, to be scheduled in the near future. Current work includes placing barriers and fencing and preparing the tops of the bridges for demolition. The city of Riverside is also relocating water lines in the area. Replacement bridges will be constructed to accommodate the upgraded roadway below. I-215 is being widened to add an additional lane in each direction. The spans of the existing bridges are not wide enough to accommodate the upgraded freeway.

Recommended detours:

- Northbound Iowa Avenue motorists can detour the Iowa overcrossing by turning left on University, right on Chicago, right on Third/Blaine, and cross the freeway to Iowa.
- Southbound Iowa motorists can turn right on Blaine/Third, left on Chicago, and left on University to Iowa.
- Westbound Linden motorists can detour the Linden overcrossing by turning right on Canyon Crest, left on Blaine/Third, cross the freeway and turn left on Chicago to Linden.
- Eastbound Linden motorists can turn right on Chicago, left on University, cross the freeway and turn left on Canyon Crest to Linden.





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Pedestrians can follow the same detour. There are crosswalks and pedestrian signals at the I-215 overcrossing on Blaine/Third. Pedestrians should note that when using University Avenue, pedestrians may only traverse the southbound side of the street when going under the freeway.

The major impact of these bridge closures will be to local street traffic. This detour will add time to your commute. Please plan accordingly. Caltrans realizes the inconvenience that this closure will cause, and asks motorists and pedestrians to be patient. The project to widen I-215 will provide a real benefit to local residents and area commuters.

For more information, call the project hotline at 1-866-60-91-215. This line is staffed Monday-Friday during normal business hours. If you need to call outside of those times, please leave a message and your call will be returned on the next business day.

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